

**News Release**  
**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*District of Rhode Island*

**May 24, 2006**



## **Felon is sentenced to 27 months for gun possession**

A federal judge has sentenced **Brandon Smith**, of Providence, to 27 months in prison for being a felon in possession of a gun. Providence Police arrested Smith last August after he attempted to flee from them while carrying a handgun.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed on May 19 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In January, Smith pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that the government could prove that, on August 18, Providence Police officers Gregory Sion and Thomas Zincone of the Gun Task Force had information that Smith, who has a prior felony conviction, might be carrying a gun. They saw Smith with a group of men on Porter Street. When Smith noticed the police officers, he peeled away from the group, pulled a silver pistol from his waistband and walked quickly toward a house.

Smith ignored Officer Sion's order to drop the gun, fled into the house and attempted to lock the officers out. The officers arrested him after a struggle in the entrance hallway and seized the gun, a nine-millimeter pistol with a round in the chamber and three in the magazine.

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In 2003, Smith was convicted in Providence County Superior Court of carrying a pistol without a license, a felony.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated the case along with Providence Police. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee prosecuted it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 700 years in federal prison.

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